

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1507
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINR, FI
SUBJECT: MINORITY COMMUNISTS STEP UP CRITICISM OF NEW GOVERNMENT

REF: HELSINKI 1118

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: EMBASSY NOTED REFTEL THAT THE INITIAL ATTITUDE OF TAISTOIST MINORITY FACTION OF FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY (SKP) TOWARD SKP MAJORITY PARTICIPATION IN NEW GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED. DURING PAST TWO WEEKS, HOWEVER, TAISTOIST FACTION HAS STEPPED UP ITS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF NEW SORSA GOVERNMENT. WHILE TAISTOISTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF PARTICIPATION OF SKP MAJORITY IN GOVERNMENT, TAISTOIST CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL ALSO INDIRECTLY TOUCHES SKP MAJORITY.

2. THE FIRST IMPORTANT PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT CAME IN REMARKS BY TAISTO SINISALO, LEADER OF MINORITY FACTION OF COMMUNISTS, PUBLISHED BY HELSINGIN SANOMAT
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JUNE 2. SINISALO SAID THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO GET OUT OF FINLAND'S RECESSION: ONE WAY IS TO IMPROVE COMPETITIVENESS OF ENTERPRISE ACTIVITIES AND TO SUPPORT THE INVESTMENT OF INDUSTRIES; THE OTHER IS TO INCREASE CONSUMPTION, WHICH WOULD IMPLY AN IMPROVEMENT OF WAGE LEVELS AND AN INCREASE OF FINNISH SECURITY AND SOCIAL BENEFITS. SINISALO SAID THE LATTER

ALTERNATIVE IS THE COMMUNIST WAY, AND SAID THAT IT IS THE MAIN SUBSTANCE OF THE SKP PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE LAST FALL, ENTITLED "A DEMOCRATIC WAY OUT FROM THE CRISIS". SINISALO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT PARTNERS OF SKP HAD CHOSEN THE FORMER ROUTE, I.E., PROMOTING INVESTMENT AND SUPPORTING ENTERPRISE ACTIVITIES.

3. THE TAISTOIST NEWSPAPER TIEDONANTAJA ON JUNE 7 PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE REVIEWING THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S FIRST THREE WEEKS IN WHICH IT FOUND A SERIES OF DEVELOPMENTS OF WHICH IT WAS CRITICAL. TIEDONANTAJA CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR PURSUING UNCHANGED A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS INTRODUCED BY THE PREVIOUS CENTRIST GOVERNMENT SUCH AS NOT SUPPORTING INCREASED SUBSIDIES TO STUDENTS, CONTINUING THE INDUSTRIAL TAX RELIEF LAW, INCREASING THE PRICE OF RICH FODDER, JOINING THE IDB, RAISING MP'S SALARIES, CONTINUING SO-CALLED K GUARANTEES TO BIG ENTERPRISE OF THE METAL INDUSTRY, AMONG SEVERAL OTHER POINTS OF CRITICISM. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: THE GROWING TAISTOIST CRITICISM COMES EVEN BEFORE THE SORSA GOVERNMENT HAS CLEARLY DEFINED ITS ECONOMIC POLICY. MOST OF THE SPECIFIC POINTS OF CRITICISM ARE ON QUESTIONS INTRODUCED DURING THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WHICH THE SORSA GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO PERMIT TO GO FORWARD. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHETHER TAISTOISTS WILL SHARPEN THEIR CRITICISM AND DIRECT IT MORE SPECIFICALLY AT SKP MAJORITY WING AS THE SORSA GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM BECOMES CLEAR. HOUSTON

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Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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